Jumping on Palestinian bandwagon not the way to deal with Mid-East

The United States has two primary goals in the Middle East, to ensure the survival of Israel as a nation and to bring about a peaceful, lasting resolution of the contentions between the various peoples of the region. Roy Meachum's column of Dec. 16 ("Peace on Earth") advances us toward neither goal.

Yes, it is sad when Palestinian women and children are killed during riots in Gaza. But what about the Israeli women and children slaughtered by Palestinian terrorists (a fact unmentioned in the column)? Is that less tragic?

How much can we really blame Israel for flexing its military muscle when it is surrounded by enemies who have vowed to drive it into the sea? An "even-handed" approach *may* be a reasonable way to deal with the problems in the Middle East. Jumping on the Palestinian bandwagon most certainly is not.

BRUCE E. IRVINS
Frederick